

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 34

Introduced by Senator Kehoe
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Pavley)

March 17, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 34—Relative to the West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 34, as amended, Kehoe. Climate change: West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative.

This measure would proclaim the Legislature's support for the West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative and the Governors' Staff Recommendations and would urge the Governor to move forward expeditiously in the implementation and further development of those recommendations, and in particular, with the adoption of aggressive targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions for the state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
2 states unequivocally that the consensus of scientific opinion is
3 that the Earth's climate is being affected by human activities, and
4 is joined in this assessment by all major scientific bodies in the
5 United States whose members' expertise bear directly on the
6 matter through similar statements; and
7 WHEREAS, The 2002 U.S. Climate Action Report concluded
8 that global climate change may harm the country, and that natural
9 ecosystems are particularly vulnerable, since little can be done to
10 help them adapt; and
11 WHEREAS, The report mentions risks to coastal communities
12 in the—~~southeast~~ *southwest*, exacerbating water shortages

1 particularly throughout the west, and increases in the heat index
2 and in the frequency of heat waves; and

3 ~~WHEREAS, In July 2002, 11 Attorneys General outlined their~~
4 ~~concern over the Climate Action Report's failure to recommend~~
5 ~~mandatory reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in light of the~~
6 ~~problem's seriousness; and~~

7 ~~WHEREAS, They declared that states could fill the federal~~
8 ~~regulatory void through regulation and litigation, but stressed that~~
9 ~~protection of the economy in the long run should be achieved~~
10 ~~through a strong national approach; and~~

11 *WHEREAS, More than two dozen local government*
12 *jurisdictions in California, representing approximately one-third*
13 *of California's population, have committed to reduce greenhouse*
14 *gas emissions in partnership with the Cities for Climate*
15 *Protection Campaign of the International Council for Local*
16 *Environmental Initiatives; and*

17 WHEREAS, Global warming will have serious adverse
18 consequences on the economy, health, and environment of
19 California; and

20 WHEREAS, While these consequences are not entirely
21 predictable, the effects of global warming are already evident in
22 the form of higher temperatures, reduced snow pack, insect
23 infestation, increased fire danger in our forests, and rising sea
24 levels on our ocean shores; and

25 WHEREAS, In California, the \$30 billion agriculture industry
26 is one of the sectors most vulnerable to changes in climate and
27 water supply; and

28 WHEREAS, These impacts will grow significantly in coming
29 years if we do nothing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

30 WHEREAS, Many California businesses face multiple
31 financial risks based on their emissions of greenhouse gases and
32 other air pollutants, and businesses that commit to substantial
33 reductions of emissions of greenhouse gases and other air
34 pollutants will reduce these risks and may gain a competitive
35 advantage; and

36 WHEREAS, Addressing global warming carries substantial
37 economic benefits. The region is rich in renewable energy
38 resources and advanced energy efficient technologies that will
39 create new jobs and provide a hedge against the economic impact

1 of price spikes for natural gas and oil and make the West Coast
2 global leaders; and

3 WHEREAS, Climate change prevention strategies will have
4 numerous public health and environmental benefits by reducing
5 the pollutants that cause smog, soot, haze, and toxic air pollution,
6 and will also help ensure adequate water supplies, preserve farm
7 and forest land uses, and reduce traffic congestion; and

8 WHEREAS, A set of representative low-carbon policies
9 analyzed for the West Coast Governors' Global Warming
10 Initiative estimates that the region would save a cumulative total
11 of almost \$40 billion net by 2020; and

12 WHEREAS, The combined carbon emissions of the West
13 Coast states— California, Washington, and Oregon— if compared
14 against other countries in the world, ranks seventh globally, *with*
15 *California ranking 10th on its own*; and

16 WHEREAS, Current state and federal policies alone will not
17 lead to a reduction in current emission levels of the greenhouse
18 gases associated with global warming; and

19 WHEREAS, While California cannot stop global warming on
20 its own, a significant reduction in California's greenhouse gas
21 emissions and collaboration with the other West Coast states
22 would have a measurable global impact, *joining with other*
23 *countries that have committed to reduce greenhouse gas*
24 *emissions*; and

25 WHEREAS, The Governors of California, Oregon, and
26 Washington concluded that our states must act individually and
27 regionally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to establish
28 precedents that will spur the development of climate policies in
29 other states and at the federal level, and so they established the
30 West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative to develop
31 solutions; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims its support of
34 the West Coast Governors' Global Warming Initiative and the
35 Governors' Staff Recommendations announced and adopted by
36 the Governors of California, Washington, and Oregon on
37 November 18, 2004; and be it further

38 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the Governor to move
39 forward expeditiously in the implementation and further
40 development of those recommendations, and in particular, with

- 1 the adoption of aggressive targets for greenhouse gas emissions
- 2 reductions for the state; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.